

Preventing Pollutant Discharges from the Maintenance Facility

The constant movement of equipment and materials at maintenance facilities causes dirt and materials to accumulate on the ground. When it rains, these pollutants can be washed off Caltrans property in storm water runoff, eventually reaching the state's rivers and oceans. Such pollutants have the potential to impact water quality and contaminate fish and aquatic habitat.

This bulletin reviews current Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce these pollutants in storm water runoff leaving the Caltrans facility.

An Ounce of Prevention...

In the long run, preventing sediment and raw materials from accumulating on facility grounds saves time, effort and the environment. The following BMPs minimize the potential for raw materials to be transported offsite in storm water.



Covered stockpiles are protected from contact with rainfall. Adding an asphalt berm would protect the stockpiles from run-on.

Material Delivery and Storage

For bagged and boxed materials stored outdoors, place the containers on pallets and cover the pallets prior to rain events. This reduces potential damage to the packaging and accidental release of materials.

Stockpile Management

- Locate stockpiles away from concentrated flows of storm water drainage systems, drain inlets, watercourses, or sensitive water bodies.

- Divert storm water run-on away from stockpiles.
- Prior to rain, treat stockpiles to prevent discharge of sediment or other pollutants. Treatment may include covering, stabilization, perimeter controls or a treatment system to prevent materials from leaving the right of way.

The Dirty Truth

Sediment on facility grounds comes from two primary sources:

- Eroded soil from unpaved areas and slopes is transported onto the facility grounds by gravity, wind or water.
- Mud and dirt are brought onto the facility on vehicle and equipment tires and undercarriages.

The following practices help control storm water pollution from these sources.

Soil Stabilization

Sediment from erosion can be reduced by stopping it at its source. To prevent onsite erosion, stabilize slopes and unpaved areas on the Caltrans facility.

- Regularly inspect unpaved areas of the facility for signs of erosion.
- Stabilize unpaved areas with vegetation or mulch.
- Do not over-irrigate landscape vegetation.

Sediment Control

Use sediment control measures to keep sediment from adjacent landowners from entering the Caltrans facility and being transported in storm water that leaves the facility.

- Regularly inspect the facility perimeter (inside and outside the perimeter fence line) for accumulated sediment.



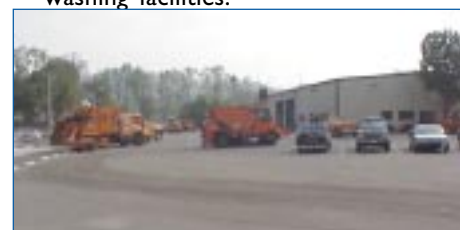
To reduce sediment entering the flood control channel from this unpaved area along the facility perimeter, soil stabilization is needed.

- As indicated by the inspection, implement linear sediment barrier controls, i.e., silt fence or gravel bag barrier, etc.
- Maintain sediment controls by removing accumulated sediment and repairing damaged areas as required by the BMPs.

Inspect and Clean

For the most effective program to reduce sediment and raw materials in storm water, a routine inspection and cleaning program is needed with the following elements:

- Regularly sweep or vacuum the facility grounds to remove accumulated pollutants.
- Regularly inspect drop inlets, facility discharge points, and facility perimeters, for accumulated pollutants. Remove pollutants and implement BMPs as indicated.
- Regularly inspect facility vehicles and equipment for dirt and mud. Ensure that vehicles are cleaned at designated washing facilities.



A sweeper is an effective tool for controlling sediment tracking and accumulation.